
A Position Statement of the California Community Colleges Early Childhood Educators Regarding Alternative Providers and Professional Preparation

Adopted May 3, 2011

California Community College Early Childhood Educators;

- Support high quality early education and care programs throughout California.
- Realize the diverse needs of individual professionals in the field and the diverse needs of early education programs.
- Understand the variety of circumstances and situations faced in ECE across our state.
- Do our best to meet these needs within the context of our available resources
- Recognize the need to effectively utilize resources by forming partnerships.
- Actively seek out additional resources

The progress toward a statewide alignment of professional preparation of early childhood educators:

- The **California State University System and California Community Colleges** participate in the accreditation process of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). This accreditation is a process designed to strengthen schools in the delivery of quality educational programs. Accreditation requires formal designation of identified student learning outcomes which are consistently assessed and other course criteria. Further, students earn a grade that indicates their level of learning of the content.
- In 2005 **California Community Colleges and California State Universities** with Child Development/Early Childhood Education programs came together to recognize that to deliver state wide quality educational programs consistency of course of study and course content is required and that course duplication is not an efficient use of professional preparation resources. As a result the Curriculum Alignment Project (CAP) was established.
- Further alignment of the foundational skills needed to teach and care for young children is also supported with the passage of SB 1440 and the work of faculty to develop an Associate Degree for transfer in child development-
- The Higher Education Colloquium for Early Care and Education, a joint venture by **community college faculty and the CSU faculty**, asserts that degree programs at WASC accredited colleges and/or universities are the essential core of effective professional preparation. And, as supported by research, highly qualified Early Childhood Education professionals hold academic degrees and credentials.
- **WASC accredited colleges and/or universities in California** offer credit bearing courses in a variety of formats including but not limited to, day, evening, weekends, online, hybrid, and accelerated/condensed. In addition, many colleges and universities have collaborated with local agencies to provide courses at times and in location convenient for their teaching staff.

While California Community College Early Childhood Educators and The Higher Education Colloquium agree that it is valuable to have non-unit-bearing experiences offered by Alternative Providers for the purposes of enrichment, ongoing learning, and maintaining currency in the field, these non-credit enrichment experiences and trainings do not replace nor should they supplant, credit bearing degree applicable foundational skills coursework offered by aligned California **WASC accredited colleges and universities**.